

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-03 MED-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 RSC-01 /029 R

66621

DRAFTED BY: EA/PRCM:ADROMBERG

APPROVED BY: EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG

A/SY/T:JPERDEW

MED/FD:SCSCHEER

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R 022311Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, CH, ASEC, AMED

SUBJECT: PRC VISAS FOR TDY AND CONSULTATION VISITS

REFS: A) HONG KONG 3527 (NOTAL) B) HONG KONG 1545 (NOTAL)

C) BANGKOK 4262 D) STATE 43179

1. ON MARCH 25 (AND AGAIN ON MARCH 26), DEPARTMENT RAISED WITH PRCLO QUESTION OF VISAS FOR HANSFORD, ELLIS, VEA AND DEAN. DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT NOTES CONCERNING FIRST TWO HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT THREE WEEKS BEFORE BUT WE HAD NO RESPONSE. PRCLO SAID PERMISSION FOR HANSFORD HAD BEEN GRANTED, BUT PROBLEM WAS GETTING HONG KONG CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE ALERTED TO ASSIST IN ISSUANCE OF VISA. WE REQUESTED THAT THEY ASK MFA TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS.

2. WE NOTED THAT VEA AND DEAN HAD BEEN WAITING SINCE JANUARY WITHOUT REPLY AND REQUESTED THAT MFA BE APPRISED OF OUR CONCERN OVER LACK OF RESPONSE. WE WERE PROMISED THIS WOULD BE DONE.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY ELLIS CAME IN TO DEPARTMENT FOR ONE WEEK AND SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO PEKING ONLY AFTER APRIL 15, AND THAT HIS TRAVEL AND THAT OF VEA AND DEAN SHOULD BE COORDINATED. PRCLO WAS INFORMED. AT PRESENT WE HOLD ELLIS' SECOND PASSPORT FOR INSERTION OF VISA IF IT COMES THROUGH IN TIME. IT WOULD THEN BE AIR POUCHED TO HONG KONG.

4. WE SPOKE WITH PRCLO AGAIN APRIL 1 ON ALL OF THESE CASES BUT THEY HAD NO WORD YET.

5. FOR HONG KONG: IN VIEW OF APPARENT AFFIRMATIVE DECISION ON HANSFORD, CONGEN MAY WISH TO CONTACT CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE TO SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY WORD FROM PEKING. IF THEY DO NOT, YOU MIGHT WISH TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAKE INQUIRY. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEMPORARY DUTY, VISAS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE066355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/PRCM:ADROMBERG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0448
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740472/aaaacoax.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) HONG KONG 3527 (NOTAL) B) HONG KO, NG 1545 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by morefirh>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <15 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC VISAS FOR TDY AND CONSULTATION VISITS
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, ASEC, AMED, CH
To: HONG KONG BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005